



February 2010

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FACT SHEET

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

Floods kill more Americans each year than any other natural disaster and are the No. 1 weather hazard in Central Ohio. In addition to heavy rainfall, floods are caused by melting snow and rising rivers, lakes and streams. Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security has issued the following information about floods to keep you and your family safe.

Dangers of Floods:

- Only six inches of fast-moving water can sweep people off their feet.
- Cars can become buoyant in about two feet of water.

Staying Ahead of the Flood:

- Understand flood terms such as flood watch, flood warning, and flash flood warning. Get more information at www.floodsmart.gov.
- Plan multiple evacuation routes.
- Visit the floods section of FEMA's website to determine your risk at www.fema.gov.
- Monitor NOAA weather radios for flood warnings.
- Avoid flood prone areas, and never let children play close to creeks or storm drains.

In a Flash Flood:

- Get to higher ground immediately, by foot if necessary.
- Never drive into flooded areas.

After a Flood:

- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery to minimize adverse impacts on area residents and property.

Emergency Public Information From:

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